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| 09/812,556 | 03/21/2001 | Eiichi Ito | 108863 | 2650 |

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| EXAMINER | |
|---|---|
| AIRAPETIAN, MILA | |
| **ART UNIT** | **PAPER NUMBER** |
| 3625 | |

DATE MAILED: 07/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 09/812,556 | ITO ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Mila Airapetian | 3625 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12 May 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) *13,16 and 18-24* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *13,16 and 18-24* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *06/08/2006*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

Applicant's amendment received on 05/12/2006 is acknowledged and entered. The applicant has amended claims 13, 19, and added claim 23 and 24. Currently, claims 13, 16, 18-24 are pending for examination.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claim 13, 16, 19, 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cannon et al. (hereinafter Cannon) (US 5,748,484) in view of Ohta (US 6,980,319).**

**Claim 13**.

Cannon teaches a method for printing social expression cards in response to electronically transmitted orders comprising:

preparing electronic personalized product producing data on a portable hand-

held device based on instructions provided to a customer prior to preparing the electronic personalized product producing data (col. 12, lines 55-67; col. 16, lines 15-16; col. 16, lines 30-31);

sending the personalized product producing data from the portable hand-held device by wireless communication to a producing facility (col. 18, line 15; col. 16, lines 15-17);

receiving, by wireless communication (col.16, line 15-17), electronic personalized product producing data in a first format (col. 18, line 15) and customer identification information (col. 20, line 28 – term "subscriber" indicated stored customer id);

electronically sequentially storing sets of the personalized product producing data and the customer identification information, each set including a piece of personalized product producing data and a piece of customer identification information (col. 17, lines 56-59);

electronically analyzing each piece of electronic personalized product producing data in the first format and converting it to a piece of electronic data in a second format (col. 17, lines 48-51);

receiving the piece of data in the second format and recording the piece of data in the second format on an output medium to produce a personalized product (col. 17, lines 8-11).

producing the personalized product (col. 19, line 7).

However, Cannon does not teach that producing of said personalized product takes place at a specified location in order to receive the product; and

automatically notifying a customer of at least one of receipt of the electronic personalized product producing data and completion of the personalized product requested wherein the automated method incorporates the request and producing of the personalized product taking place within a limited, defined geographic area or facility where the customer is located, and delivery of the personalized product to the customer at the location where the personalized product is produced.

Ohta teaches a method of selectively printing at remote printers via portable digital device including producing the personalized product at a location to be specified in order to receive the product (col. 2, lines 20-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Canon in include producing of said personalized product takes place at a specified location in order to receive the product, as disclosed in Ohta, because it would allow direct communication between the portable digital device and the peripheral devices such as printer prior to printing information. Also it would allow to store the information to be printed at any location, thereby providing convenience to the customer, as specifically taught by Ohta (col. 2, lines 7-13).

Ohta teaches said method including automatically notifying a customer of at least one of receipt of the electronic personalized product producing data and completion of the personalized product requested wherein the automated method incorporates the request and producing of the personalized product taking place within a limited, defined geographic area or facility where the customer is located, and delivery of the

personalized product to the customer at the location where the personalized product is produced (col. 12, lines 18-25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Canon to include automatically notifying a customer of at least one of receipt of the electronic personalized product producing data and completion of the personalized product requested wherein the automated method incorporates the request and producing of the personalized product taking place within a limited, defined geographic area or facility where the customer is located, and delivery of the personalized product to the customer at the location where the personalized product is produced, as disclosed in Ohta, because it would allow the customer know that his order was manufactured without inquiring for this information by himself, thereby increasing customer service.

**Claim 16**. Cannon teaches all the limitations of claim 16 except providing a personalized product in response to each request from customers, said method further comprising the step of delivering the personalized product produced to a location within the limited, defined geographic area or facility designated by each piece of customer identification information.

Ohta teaches a method of selectively printing at remote printers via portable digital device including delivering the personalized product produced to a location within the limited, defined geographic area or facility designated by each piece of customer identification information (col. 2, lines 20-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Canon in include producing of said personalized product takes place at a specified location in order to receive the product, as disclosed in Ohta, because it would allow direct communication between the portable digital device and the peripheral devices such as printer prior to printing information. Also it would allow to store the information to be printed at any location, thereby providing convenience to the customer, as specifically taught by Ohta (col. 2, lines 7-13).

**Claim 19**. Ohta teaches said method including the producing and the storing are paired in each of a plurality of locations within the limited, defined geographic area or facility, each piece of e-mail received from each of the customers contains information about the personalized product device's location, designated by each of the customers (col. 2, lines 47-56); and

analyzing the data about the personalized product producing device's location, and transferring the image data to the personalized product producing device installed in a designated producing location, the personalized product producing device at the designated location producing the requested personalized product, and a storage device installed in the designated personalized product producing device, storing the produced personalized product (col. 2, lines 47-56).

The motivation to combine Cannon and Ohta would be to allow direct communication between the portable digital device and the peripheral devices such as printer prior to printing information. Also it would allow to store the information to be

printed at any location, thereby providing convenience to the customer, as specifically taught by Ohta (col. 2, lines 7-13).

**Claim 20**. Ohta teaches said method wherein a personalized product producing system is installed in a plurality of locations within the limited, defined geographic area or facility, and a receiver for receiving the wireless communication is installed in each of the plurality of locations and is allowed to receive only wireless communications transmitted from the customers within an area associated with each location of the plurality of locations (col. 2, lines 20-30).

The motivation to combine Cannon and Ohta would be to allow direct communication between the portable digital device and the peripheral devices such as printer prior to printing information. Also it would allow to store the information to be printed at any location, thereby providing convenience to the customer, as specifically taught by Ohta (col. 2, lines 7-13).

**Claim 21**. Ohta teaches said method including calculating upon receipt of each wireless communication, a number of wireless communications already received and operation condition of a personalized product producing device, and estimated time of completion of the requested personalized product; and automatically returning a wireless communication including the estimated time of completion to each of the customers (col. 5, lines 37-45). The motivation to combine Cannon and Ohta would be to allow to store the information to be printed at any location, thereby providing convenience to the customer, as specifically taught by Ohta (col. 2, lines 7-13).

**Claim 22**. Cannon teaches all the limitations of claim 22 except receiving the personalized product by the customer at the location where production of the personalized product occurs.

Ohta teaches a method of selectively printing at remote printers via portable digital device including except receiving the personalized product by the customer at the location where production of the personalized product occurs (col. 2, lines 20-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Canon in include except receiving the personalized product by the customer at the location where production of the personalized product occurs, as disclosed in Ohta, because it would allow direct communication between the portable digital device and the peripheral devices such as printer prior to printing information. Also it would allow to store the information to be printed at any location, thereby providing convenience to the customer, as specifically taught by Ohta (col. 2, lines 7-13).

**Claims 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Cannon and Ohta, as applied to claim 13, in view of Cockrill et al. (US 20030208442).**

**Claim 18**. The combination of Cannon and Ohta teaches all the limitations of claim 18 including storing the produced personalized product in association with the customer information (col.5, lines 19-20; col. 18, lines 30-32; col. 20, line 28 – term "subscriber" indicated stored customer information); and

providing the stored personalized product associated with the customer information to each of the customers (col. 18, lines 50-51).

However Cannon and Ohta does not teach authenticating each of the customers based on the customer information; and upon confirmation of authenticity of each of the customers.

Cockrill teaches electronic commerce using a transaction network wherein the network authenticates the customer based on information provided by the customer.

It would have been obvious having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Cannon and Ohta to include authenticating each of the customers based on the customer information, as disclosed in Cockrill (Abstract, [0013]), because it would allow only authorized users to access the system, thereby enhancing security of the system.

**Claims 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Cannon and Ohta, as applied to claim 13, in view of Slyster et al. (US 6,174,579).**

**Claim 23**. The combination of Cannon and Ohta teaches all the limitations of claim 13 except that the personalized product is one of a stamp, name card, and sticker/label.

Slyster et al. (Slyster) teaches printing personalized labels/stickers wherein said stickers could be affixed to the desired object (col. 6, lines 34-51).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Cannon and Ohta to include that said product includes labels, as disclosed in Slyster, because it would advantageously allow to employ said personalized products as a personalized return address label affixed to the greeting card (col. 6, lines 34-51).

**Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cannon in view of Ohta, and further in view of Slyster.**

**Claim 24**. Cannon teaches a method for printing social expression cards in response to electronically transmitted orders comprising:

preparing electronic personalized product producing data on a portable hand-held device based on instructions provided to a customer (col. 12, lines 55-67; col. 16, lines 15-16; col. 16, lines 30-31);

sending the personalized product producing data from the portable hand-held device by wireless communication to a producing facility (col. 18, line 15; col. 16, lines 15-17);

receiving, by wireless communication (col. 16, lines 15-17), electronic personalized product producing data in a first format and customer identification information (col. 20, line 28 – term "subscriber" indicates stored customer id);

electronically sequentially storing sets of the personalized product producing

data and the customer identification information, each set including a piece of personalized product producing data and a piece of customer identification information (col. 17, lines 56-59);

electronically analyzing each piece of electronic personalized product producing data in the first format and converting it to a piece of electronic data in a second format (col. 17, lines 48-51);

receiving the piece of data in the second format and recording the piece of data in the second format on an output medium used to produce a personalized product (col. 17, lines 8-11).

However, Cannon does not teach that said product is selected from the group consisting of a stamp, name card, and sticker/label.

Slyster teaches printing personalized labels/stickers wherein said stickers could be affixed to the desired object (col. 6, lines 34-51).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Cannon and Ohta to include that said product includes labels, as disclosed in Slyster, because it would advantageously allow to employ said personalized products as a personalized return address label affixed to the greeting card (col. 6, lines 34-51).

Cannon also does not teach:

producing the personalized product at a location to be specified in order to receive the product; and

automatically notifying the customer of at least one of receipt of the electronic

personalized product producing data and completion of the personalized product requested, wherein the automated method incorporates the request and producing of the personalized product taking place within a limited, defined geographic area or facility where the customer is located, and delivery of the personalized product to the customer at the location where the personalized product is produced.

Ohta teaches a method of selectively printing at remote printers via portable digital device including producing the personalized product at a location to be specified in order to receive the product (col. 2, lines 20-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Canon in include producing of said personalized product takes place at a specified location in order to receive the product, as disclosed in Ohta, because it would allow direct communication between the portable digital device and the peripheral devices such as printer prior to printing information. Also it would allow to store the information to be printed at any location, thereby providing convenience to the customer, as specifically taught by Ohta (col. 2, lines 7-13).

Ohta teaches said method including automatically notifying a customer of at least one of receipt of the electronic personalized product producing data and completion of the personalized product requested wherein the automated method incorporates the request and producing of the personalized product taking place within a limited, defined geographic area or facility where the customer is located, and delivery of the personalized product to the customer at the location where the personalized product is produced (col. 12, lines 18-25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Canon to include automatically notifying a customer of at least one of receipt of the electronic personalized product producing data and completion of the personalized product requested wherein the automated method incorporates the request and producing of the personalized product taking place within a limited, defined geographic area or facility where the customer is located, and delivery of the personalized product to the customer at the location where the personalized product is produced, as disclosed in Ohta, because it would allow the customer know that his order was manufactured without inquiring for this information by himself, thereby increasing customer service.

### *Response to Arguments*

Applicant's arguments files on 05/12/2006 with respect to claim 13-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mila Airapetian whose telephone number is (571) 272-3202. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith can be reached on (571) 272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MA

Jeffrey A. Smith
Primary Examiner